Declining trend in rain fall

4385. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a declining trend in rainfall due to damage caused to the ecology; and

(b) if so, what preventive measures Government propose to take to avoid the loss due to less rainfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Scientists have analysed long term rainfall series over various parts of the country and concluded that the short term fluctuations above normal and below normal rainfall are random in nature and do not reveal any, significant change in climate.

Project of Chilka Acquatic Farm Limited

4386. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 104 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th July, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the Project of Chilka Acquatic Farm Ltd., for prawn culture in chilka brackish water lagoon; and

(b) what are the conditions, laid down in the clearance order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of land by the Wasteland Development Authority

4387. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is slow progress in the conversion of lands by the Wasteland Development Board in the country; and

(b) what is the total targetted land conversion by the Board and what is the achievement so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The National Wastelands Development Board is not concerned with conversion of land. The mandate of the Board is to guide and oversee the Wastelanls Development Programme aimed at checking land degradation and putting wastelands in the country to sustainable use, increasing biomass availability, specially fuelwood, fodder and forest produce, and restoring the ecological balance. The Board is also the nodal agency at the Central level to coordinate and monitor the afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20 Point Programme. During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), a total area of 8.8 million hectares was covered by these activities against a target of 8.6 million hectares.

Achievement of first phase of Ganga Action Plan

4388. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a controlversy about the achievement of the first phase of Ganga Action Plan and purity of its water, is going on at present, in the country;

(b) whether the promise of Late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that the Ganga will be free from pollution has been fulfilled;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) further steps contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Ganga Action Plan was launched in 1986 for pollution abatement